

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. Eddington of the Merit Systems Department asked that this be put in and the reason is that to establish compliance with federal grant-in-aid requirements with reference to the Nebraska Joint Merit System, since we have not yet merged the state personnel office with the Joint Merit System, we have to have this amendment in order to get grant-in-aid funds. Now this means that the reports must be filed with the Clerk of the Legislature and the Secretary of State and any changes that have been made effective with reference to the bill would stay effective until the Legislature would disapprove. It's already in the bill that way for the personnel director and we have to make it that way for the director of the Joint Merit Systems. I move the amendment to be adopted.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion of the amendment? Question is, shall the amendment then be adopted? All those in favor please respond by saying aye, those opposed say no. Amendment is adopted. Are there other amendments?

CLERK: None.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, we'll make this brief. The purpose of the bill as all of you know is to bring some conformity to state government to pay the people the same doing the same kind of services in state government. The bill is set out the classifications, the plan has been done, we're ready to implement it. I'd move that the bill be advanced.

PRESIDENT: Is there any further discussion of LB 545 as amended? Question is, shall the bill as amended be advanced from General File to E & R Initial? All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote no. Voting on the movement of LB 545 as amended from General File to E & R Initial. Once again, have you all voted? Clerk will record.

CLERK: 34 ayes, no nays, 15 not voting on motion to advance.

PRESIDENT: Bill is advanced. Brings up General File consideration of LR 21.

CLERK: Reads Resolution 21. There are no committee amendments or other amendments pending.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Cavanaugh.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Mr. President, members of the body, the intent of this resolution is primarily directed at Omaha since it is the primary metropolitan area of the City of Omaha. There has been up to this point, within the last year and a half, extensive study done by DAS on consolidating all the state services provided in Omaha. I believe there are about 15 different state agencies and offices operating in the City of Omaha. All at different locations and I think the result, and the state is presently pursuing the acquisition of a centralized location and the consolidation of each of these agencies under a single state facility and the purpose of this resolution is to give legislative encouragement to that action. I think it would be an extremely beneficial thing to the people of the City of Omaha and the State of Nebraska. I urge the adoption of the Resolution.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Barnett, then Senator Epke, then Senator Waldron.

SENATOR BARNETT: I guess the first thing, Mr. President, I wonder if Senator Cavanaugh would yield to a question?